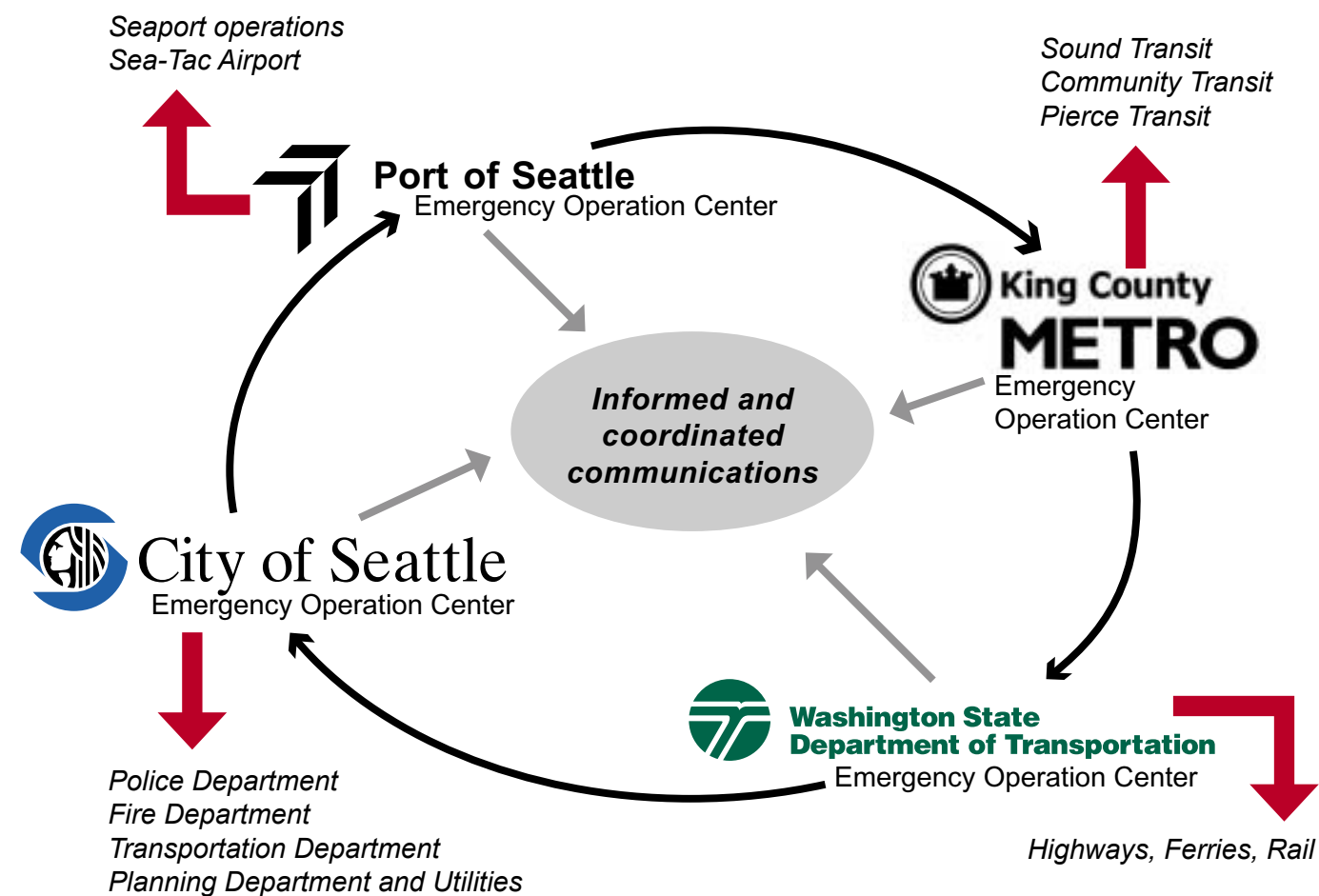


# Communication and Interagency Cooperation Are Key to Successful Emergency Response



## Communications will be directed to:

- Emergency service providers
- Major civic facilities
- Hospitality services and visitors
- Media
- Special need communities
- Businesses and employees
- Schools
- Freight
- General public

## Next Steps

The Washington State Department of Transportation and Seattle Department of Transportation will continue to update the Emergency Closure Plan. During the next few months, additional input from other agencies and stakeholders will help ensure the plan's success. The Seattle Department of Transportation will provide an update to the Seattle City Council in mid-2005.

## For More Information in Advance of an Emergency

Liz Rankin, Seattle Department of Transportation  
206-684-8540 — [liz.rankin@seattle.gov](mailto:liz.rankin@seattle.gov)

Linda Mullen, Washington State Dept of Transportation  
206-464-1209 — [mullenl@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:mullenl@wsdot.wa.gov)

## In the Event of an Emergency

Travel Information 511  
Seattle's Emergency Alert System KIRO 710 AM

# Alaskan Way Viaduct Emergency Closure Plan Strategy

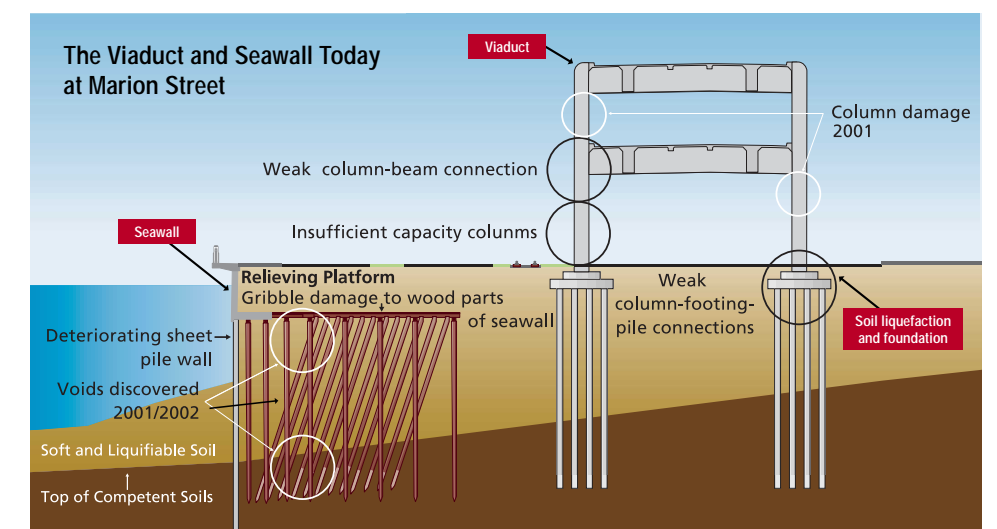


The Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall are old, deteriorating facilities, at risk of failure in the event of a strong earthquake. We know this and we are preparing. While not all scenarios can be anticipated, this brochure outlines basic strategies contained in the Emergency Closure Plan. The Washington State Department of Transportation and Seattle Department of Transportation's immediate priorities will be the protection of lives and speedy restoration of our transportation system.

In the event of a sizable earthquake and its aftershocks, drastic actions will be necessary to respond and restore services. Priority will be given to moving

emergency response personnel through the city. Traffic will be re-directed away from downtown Seattle. Key bridges and structures will be inspected. Temporary detours will be put in place and emergency public information systems will be activated.

In the days and weeks after an earthquake, the real difference will be made by Seattle travelers' decisions to change routes, limit travel and alter travel modes. This will determine how well people and goods move during a closure.



# The Alaskan Way Viaduct *Emergency Closure Plan Strategy*

Drastic actions to respond and restore services will be necessary in the event of a sizable earthquake and its aftershocks. The Mayor and Governor will together lead the response, deliver information, and guide public action. Efforts will be closely coordinated with Emergency Operation Centers throughout the region.

The Emergency Closure Plan details traffic management and detour plans for scenarios if the Alaskan Way Viaduct is closed or weight-restricted, and whether surface Alaskan Way is closed or open.



Begin Within 2 Hours	Begin Within 2 Days	Begin Within 2 Weeks
<p>Activate emergency operations centers</p> <p>Close Alaskan Way Viaduct and Alaskan Way</p> <p>Identify signal outages, and close other damaged roads and structures</p> <p>Prioritize access for fire, police, and ambulances</p> <p>Control traffic at key intersections to manage gridlock using police officers</p> <p>Detour drivers away from unsafe areas and structures</p> <p>Direct people out of downtown Seattle</p> <p>Divert incoming trips away from downtown Seattle</p> <p>Provide access to key utilities for emergency repairs</p> <p>Coordinate with local, regional, state agencies on response and recovery</p>	<p>Control traffic at key intersections to manage gridlock using police officers</p> <p>Complete inspection and preliminary assessment of Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall and decide whether to open</p> <p><b><i>If closed...</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Implement pre-determined long-term detours</li><li>■ Redirect trips away from SR 99</li><li>■ Allow limited access to/from downtown</li><li>■ Prioritize freight access to Port, Interbay, Duwamish</li><li>■ Coordinate added transit service</li><li>■ Remove on-street parking</li><li>■ Repair damaged signals</li><li>■ Coordinate with local, regional, state agencies on response and recovery</li><li>■ Restrict non-emergency construction</li><li>■ Restrict office freight to night deliveries</li></ul>	<p>Control traffic at key intersections</p> <p>Reopen streets as possible</p> <p>Re-time signals for long-term detours</p> <p>Restrict parking as needed</p> <p>Re-stripe key intersections for dual-turn lanes if necessary</p> <p>Work with parking lot owners to prioritize carpool parking</p> <p>Continue to coordinate added transit service, encourage ridesharing, flexible work hours, etc.</p> <p>Restrict non-emergency construction-related lane closures</p> <p>Coordinate with local, regional, state agencies on response and recovery</p>
Sample Directions to Inform the Public		
<p>The Alaskan Way Viaduct and Alaskan Way are closed as a precautionary measure to protect traveler safety while being inspected.</p> <p>Expect heavy congestion and long delays.</p> <p>Limit downtown trips to emergency purposes only.</p> <p>Priority will be given to moving fire, police and ambulances.</p> <p>Hourly updates will be provided via hotlines/ media/Internet.</p>	<p>Within the first 48 hours of an earthquake, limit entry into downtown to only necessary trips.</p> <p>Traffic control measures are in place to move traffic onto pre-established alternate routes.</p> <p>Downtown businesses should work with employees to minimize vehicle trips in the downtown area.</p> <p>Only emergency related construction is allowed downtown.</p>	<p>Commuters are encouraged to take transit, carpool, telecommute and/or work flexible hours.</p> <p>Construction to repair roads and structures is underway; follow detours and avoid construction areas.</p> <p>Lane closures for non-emergency construction will be restricted.</p> <p>Parking lots and garages will give priority parking to carpoolers.</p>
Communication Tools		
<p>Depending on availability, the following tools will be used to communicate detours and updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Radio/TV/Print media</li><li>■ Internet</li><li>■ Hotline, 511</li><li>■ Stationary and variable message signs</li><li>■ Public advisory system</li><li>■ Written materials posted at community centers</li></ul>		

\* WSDOT and SDOT will lead this emergency effort. Additional advance work with the City Attorney and other City agencies to clearly define SDOT's emergency response authority is ongoing.